

Remarks

Applicants hereby respond to the Election requirement made in the Office Action dated October 26, 2005.

Election:

The Office Action requested the restriction of claims in the application as follows:

- I. Claims 1-8, drawn to a process.
- II. Claims 9-10, drawn to an apparatus.
- III. Claims 11-12 drawn to a composition.

Inventions I and II are related as a process and the apparatus for its practice. The Examiner states that the apparatus as claimed can be used to dewater non-graft polymers inferring that the claimed apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different process making it distinct from the claimed process.

Inventions I and III are related as a process of making and the product made. The Examiner states that the claimed product can be made by a process using a reactor without kneading bars, inferring that the product can be made by another and materially different process making the process and product distinct inventions.

Inventions II and III are related as apparatus and product made. The Examiner believes that the product can be made with an apparatus not having kneading bars inferring that the claimed product can be made by another and materially different apparatus making the process and apparatus distinct inventions.

Furthermore, the Examiner states that the Applicants are required under 35 USC 121 to elect a single disclosed species by electing a single species of elastomer "D", thermoplastic "B" and grafted phase "A". And, that currently all claims are generic.

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In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants respectfully elect with traverse the claims of group I, claims 1-8, for further prosecution. Applicants further elect with traverse the following species:

Elastomer D (claim 5): butadiene rubber;

Thermoplastic "B" (claim 7): styrene/acrylonitrile copolymer; and

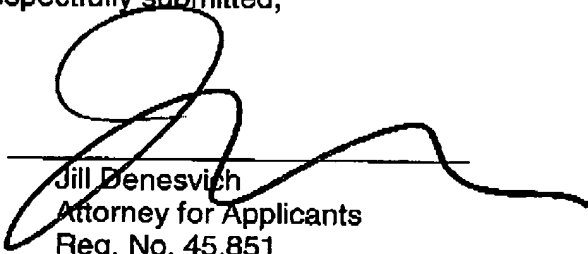
Grafted Phase "C" (claim 6): styrene/acrylonitrile polymer.

The generic claims elected herein include sufficiently few species that a search and examination of all species at one time would not impose a serious burden on the Examiner. Applicants, respectfully, request that once a thorough search of the elected species has been accomplished, the search be expanded to cover all of the species encompassed by the generic claims. Applicants submit that the pending claims cover a reasonable number of species and that they should be examined in one application.

In view of the above amendments, Applicants request that examination of this application continue.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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